

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 15, and 27 are the independent claims. Claims 1, 8, 11, 15, 27 and 29 are amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the thoughtful courtesies extended during the telephonic interview held on December 10, 2008. During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed the claim amendments, substantially as presented herein, and a Sandia Report entitled "Three Dimensional Visualization to Support Command and Control" (Slambrook). The substance of the interview is incorporated into this paper. Applicants thank the Examiner for an indication that the amendments would overcome the rejections and objections set forth in the Office Action.

No new matter is believed to have been introduced to the application by this amendment. The changes to the claims are fully supported by the original disclosure, including, for example, the title and paragraphs [0029], [0031], [0040], [0059], and [0065].

Claim Objections

Claim 29 has been objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that amended Claim 29 would overcome the objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that the amendments would overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 101

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that the amendments would overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 101 rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102 & § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-25 and 27-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by a Sandia Report entitled “Three Dimensional Visualization to Support Command and Control” (Slambrook); and Claims 6, 13 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Slambrook in view of Virtual Object Manipulation on a Table-Top AR Environment (Kato). Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that the amendments would overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The applied references are not understood to disclose or suggest the features of Claim 1, particularly with respect to at least the following features:

a visualization system for augmented reality;

the three-dimensional representation of the space system including an image of the virtual world super-imposed on an image of the real world; and

the viewer to select one of the satellites to view satellite model status data of the selected one of the satellites, and the viewer to direct the selected one of the satellites to move to a different position.

As discussed during the interview, Slambrook discloses virtual reality. Slambrook is understood to teach that virtual reality is the crux of its disclosure. Slambrook describes numerous times the importance and necessity of being immersed in the virtual reality environment. For example, Slambrook states, “The objective was for an operator to view data in a more natural and intuitive way by being immersed within the satellite’s environment and from this perspective quickly and effectively convert the fused information to knowledge and action.” Slambrook, section 1.1 (emphasis added). It further states, “. . . a completely immersive experience can be generated, . . .” Slambrook, section 2.3.2 (emphasis added). It also states, “. . . to give the impression of being in another world. . . . for a sense of immersion.” Slambrook, section 2.3.3 (emphasis added). Furthermore, Slambrook states, “The operator may be immersed in the satellite environment and in a natural and intuitive manner see, feel, and hear what the satellite sees, feels, and hears. . . . The participant is able to ‘fly’ in the virtual environment. . . .” Slambrook, section 4.0, first and fourth paragraphs (emphasis added).

As discussed during the interview, Applicants respectfully submit that Slambrook does not disclose any of the following mentioned in the Office Action:

The Office Action states that Slambrook's section 2.3.3 discloses "the three-dimensional representation of the space system including an image of the virtual super-imposed on an image of the real world" (see Office Action, page 4) and that sections 2.2 and 2.3.3 disclose "the representation of the space system including a representation of a real world overlaid with the representation of a virtual world" (see Office Action, page 7). Applicants respectfully submit that none of these sections discloses the above-mentioned features. Slambrook's section 2.2 simply discloses "modeling in three different phases." Slambrook's section 2.3.3 discloses virtual reality ". . . intended to give the impression of being in another world. . . for a sense of immersion." (emphasis added.)

The Office Action also states that Slambrook's sections 4, 1.1, and 2.2 disclose "an input portion configured to allow the viewer to select a satellite to view satellite model status data of the satellite and configured to allow the viewer to direct the satellite to move to a different position" (see Office Action, page 4) and that Slambrook's sections 2.3.5.1 and 1.1 disclose "selecting one of the satellites, by the viewer, to view satellite model status data of the satellite" and "directing the selected one of the satellites, by the viewer, to move to a different position" (see Office Action, page 7). Applicants respectfully submit that none of these sections discloses the above-mentioned features. Slambrook's sections 4 and 1.1 disclose being immersed in virtual reality. For example, section 4 discloses, "The operator may be immersed in the satellite environment and in a natural and intuitive manner see, feel, and hear what the satellite sees, feels, and hears. . . . The participant is able to 'fly' in the virtual environment" (emphasis added.) Section 1.1 discloses "The objective was for an operator to view data in a more natural and intuitive way by being immersed within the satellite's environment and from this perspective quickly and effectively convert the fused information to knowledge and action." (emphasis added.) Slambrook's section 2.2 simply

discloses “modeling in three different phases.” Slambrook’s section 2.3.5.1 simply discloses “static models.”

Slambrook does not disclose or teach a visualization system for augmented reality where the three-dimensional representation of the space system includes an image of the virtual world super-imposed on an image of the real world, and the viewer is allowed to select one of the satellites to view satellite model status data of the selected one of the satellites and to direct the selected one of the satellites to move to a different position. Slambrook in fact teaches away from having a visualization system for augmented reality. Kato does not remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Slambrook.

Accordingly, the applied references, either alone or in combination, are not understood to disclose, teach, or suggest the features of independent Claim 1, which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Independent Claims 8, 15, and 27 are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

The other claims currently under consideration in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner’s earliest convenience. Applicant’s undersigned attorney may be contacted at the address and telephone number set forth below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 501216 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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